

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0086] beginning at page 23, line 26, with the following:

--[0086] GH is a member of a conserved family of hormones including, in humans, GH-V1 and GH-V2, choriomammotropin and prolactin and proteins from other vertebrates such as rodent placental lactogens I and II and other bovine and sheep lactogens, murine proliferin I, II, and III and proliferin-related protein, bovine prolactin-related proteins I, II, and III, rat prolactin-like proteins A and B, and somatolactins from various fishes. Members of this family are characterized by the consensus sequences C-x-[ST]-x(2)-[LIVMFY]-x-[LIVMSTA]-P-x(5)-[TALIV]-x(7)-[LIVMFY]-x(6)-[LIVMFY]-x(2)-[STA]-W (SEQ ID NO:7) or C-[LIVMFY]-x(2)-D-[LIVMFYSTA]-x(5)-[LIVMFY]-x(2)-[LIVMFYT]-x(2)-C (SEQ ID NO:8).--

Please replace paragraph [0180] beginning at page 46, line 5, with the following:

--[0180] For detection of human Pax4 transcripts, which encode a paired-like homeobox protein, the following PCR primers were used.

Forward primer: 5' GAGGCACTGGAGAAAGAGTT 3' (SEQ ID NO:1)

Reverse primer: 5' ACTTGAGCTTCTCTTGCCGA 3' (SEQ ID NO:2)--

Please replace paragraph [0182] beginning at page 46, line 12, with the following:

--[0182] For detection of human Hlxb9 transcripts, a homeobox gene, the following PCR primers were used.

Forward primer: 5' ATGATCCTGCCTAAGATGCC 3' (SEQ ID NO:3)

Reverse primer: 5' CCATTTCATCCGCCGGTTCTG 3' (SEQ ID NO:4)--

Please replace paragraph [0184] beginning at page 46, line 19, with the following:

--[0184] For detection of human Glp-1R transcripts, which encode a glucagons like peptide receptor, the following PCR primers were used.

Forward primer: 5' GTGTGGCGGCCAATTACTAC 3' (SEQ ID NO:5)

Reverse primer: 5' CTTGGCAAGTCTGCATTTGA 3' (SEQ ID NO:6)--

Please insert the accompanying paper copy of the Sequence Listing, page numbers 1 to 5, at the end of the application.